

His M A J E S T Y's

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LETTER

James Francis Edward [Stuart], Prince of Wales, called the Pretender.
To the REVEREND

M^r. CHARLES LESLEY.

URBINO, Nov. 29.

1717. N. S.

I Thank you for the particular Account you give me, in Your's of the 29th of October, of the Affairs of Dr. Hoadly before the CONVOCATION, to which there was a Stop put by a Prorogation, to prevent an Enquiry into his Doctrine, and, in all Appearance, a just Censure thereof, in their own Ecclesiastical Way. This, with many other Proceedings of the Elector of Hannover, seem to be design'd, by Providence, to shew the Church and People of England, how little secure their Lives and Privileges are, under the present Government; for by the best Information I can have, the Intrinsic Spiritual Power of the Church, or, the Power of the Keys, as it was exercised by the Apostles, and the most Pure and Primitive Church, in the three first Centuries after Christ, have ever been thought an Essential Right of the Church of England, so that It may inquire into the Doctrines of its own Members, and inflict Ecclesiastical Censures, not extending to any Civil Punishment. Now the Civil Government putting a Stop to such Proceedings, is, in Effect the taking away that undoubted Right of the Church, which, if it please GOD to restore ME to my own JUST RIGHT, I am firmly resolved to maintain to It. The many and repeated Assurances I have given, of maintaining inviolably to the Church of England, all Her just Rights and Privileges secured to Her by so many Laws, of confirming those Rights in our first Parliament, and of giving what further reasonable Security, on that Head, shall then seem good to our People, is, I think, more than enough to quiet and satisfy the most Scrupulous and Apprehensive, as to the Security that Church will enjoy under our Lawful Government: And if People would but compare what they now feel and see, with what they may then expect, the Conclusion cannot but be very much to my Advantage, for opening of the Eyes of those now deluded, and convincing them, that doing Justice to Me, is the only solid Foundation for a lasting Peace and Happiness both in Church and State.

Having so fair an Opportunity, I could not but signify thus much to you, and you may communicate it to whom you think fit. I doubt not but the Convocation will now soon meet again, for it would be too gross to put it off a second Time, and then, to be sure, It will take the Case of Dr. Hoadly again under its Consideration, and I shall be glad to hear from you what is done in it.

I am the more glad of Your good Health, that you know how concerned I was at its not allowing you to stay longer in this Climate, which agree better with my Health than my Inclination, but I hope in God's Mercy better Times may come. I wish we may soon meet where we both so much desire to be, where I shall be able to shew you the singular Regard I have for You.

J. R.